

Long Island Botanical Society

Vol. 20 No. 2

The Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010

Ah, Grasses

Marian S. Hubbard

Amateur Naturalist, Freeport, NY

I had asked around for someone to help me identify the grasses growing in Muttontown Preserve. The part-time staff and volunteers could not help me. I was referred to Eric Lamont, probably in early 2008. In answer to my inquiry he emailed something like, "Ah, grasses... the bane of the field botanist." I was well warned!

I don't know how much is curiosity and how much plain stubbornness, but I plowed ahead, learning the specialized vocabulary of grass biology and digging into identification books. I have identified a dozen species in Muttontown Preserve in East Norwich and more "weeds" curbside near my apartment in Freeport. I'm a retired banker, and have had to fill in a lot of biological background for my nature studies. From around 20 years of collecting shells I got comfortable with Latin names as well as common ones. I was delighted that the folks at Muttontown were interested in both scientific and common names for the wildflowers we continue to find. I'm still looking for people interested in delving into a fascinating corner of field botany with me: grasses.

Here is my idea of a "primer" for people who want to start on grass identification. Back when I lectured to garden clubs on ferns and other non-flowering plants, I started with ferny-leaved plants that were not ferns. Here I will start with plants that look somewhat like grasses: rushes and sedges.

RUSH stems are usually wiry and round in cross-section. We have lots of path rush (*Juncus tenuis*) along the Muttontown paths.



Fig. 1 *Dactylis glomerata* L. - orchardgrass
Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC. 1950.

SEDGES have edges. They usually have triangular stems, but that might not be tangible on a small plant. However, all sedges have leaves in 3 rows or ranks -- 120 degrees apart around the stem, when you look at the plant from above. I find sedges with a wild variety of flowering heads around the pond at Chelsea Mansion and in mud puddles in the preserve. They usually bloom in late summer or autumn. Here is *Carex scoparia*.

GRASSES have leaves in 2 vertical rows or ranks. If you look down on the plant, the leaves come off alternating on opposite sides of the stem -- 180 degrees apart. I was sort of surprised when I found that grasses really are flowering plants. The flowers are inconspicuous and not useful for identification. Especially under magnification, you can see that when blooming the grass stamens are various colors -- often white, rust-colored or brown. Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) has glorious golden yellow stamens.

Here are the grasses growing in Muttontown Preserve that I have identified with reasonable certainty. I hope my comments will help you identify them, too.

Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). Figure 1. I have found this blooming as early as May, in many places where there is enough sun. The clumpy dry heads can be found all summer long and into the fall.

Deertongue grass (*Panicum clandestinum* = *Dichanthelium clandestinum*). This blooms from May to September, but the
(Continued on pg 11)

Long Island Botanical Society

Founded: 1986

Incorporated: 1989

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

Visit the Society's Web site
www.libotanical.org

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Society News

LIBS joined three different environmental coalitions in the early months of 2010. The Executive Board decided that the goals of these coalitions are aligned with the mission and purpose of LIBS as stated in our By-Laws: "To initiate, encourage and sponsor the preservation of the botanical heritage of Long Island" and "To provide information to individuals and organizations, when necessary, to assist in the preservation and management of botanical sites".

1. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition is deeply concerned about the passage of federal law that will result in the sale of Plum Island and the loss of numerous environmental resources including diverse coastal upland and wetland habitats; rare plant species including orchids (NYS's largest population of spring ladies' tresses), Scotch lovage, slender knotweed, and sea-beach knotweed; critical winter haul-out grounds for marine mammals including harbor seals and grey seals; critical habitat for nesting, foraging, and migrating birds including piping plover, roseate terns, osprey, bank swallows, and a variety of additional birds-of-prey, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and songbird species. The Coalition strongly endorses the idea that the island be protected as a National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Coalition to Save Carmans River. The Suffolk County Legislature is considering selling 250-acres of publicly owned county land within the Carmans River corridor to a private developer to be developed into "Legacy Village", a residential/commercial/sports complex. The coalition endorses the transfer of this tract to the Department of Parks for inclusion in the Carmans River Preserve. To date, 34 Long Island environmental groups and civic associations have joined the coalition, including Environmental Defense Fund, L.I. Pine Barrens Society, L.I. Sierra Club, Open Space Council, Post Morrow Foundation, Peconic Baykeeper, and Seatuck Foundation.

3. The Friends of New York's Environment is a broad coalition of more than 100 environmental, health, agricultural, recreational, and community groups committed to working together to secure dedicated funding to protect New York's land, air, and water. The Environmental Protection Fund, a pivotal source for the state's premier environmental programs, has been disproportionately targeted for reductions in the Executive Proposed Budget for 2010-11. The Coalition is sponsoring a Long Island rally in opposition to massive funding cuts to the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

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LIBS Member Electronic Mailing List

LIBS is creating an electronic mailing list (an email and telephone list) so that our members can better stay in touch with each other. The list is for members' use only and will not be distributed in any way.

To join the list, please send an email to Joanne Tow at

BOTANY2003@HOTMAIL.COM

Subject line: LIBS. Message: your last name, first name, email, phone number, town and state.

(Grasses, Cont. from page 9)

early inflorescence is larger. It blooms a second time in the fall, but is barely noticeable. There are many species of “panic grass” but this one has the widest leaves. It does not seem to need as much sun as most of the grasses do; I find it along the paths in small clumps.

Timothy (*Pbleum pratense*). Figure 2. I find it in early summer north of the Equestrian Center. The cylindrical inflorescence is stiff compared with foxtail (which blooms later).



Fig. 2 *Pbleum pratense*
L. - timothy
Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A.
Chase). 1950. *Manual of the
grasses of the United States*.
USDA Miscellaneous
Publication No. 200.
Washington, DC. 1950.

seeds lined along one side of the stem. [Ed. Note: the apparent seed of a grass plant is technically a “caryopsis,” a dry, one-seeded fruit in which the ovary wall adheres to the seed coat.]

Foxtails. Yellow foxtail (*Setaria pumila*) and green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*) are both tufted annuals with erect heads, blooming about the same time, summer into fall. Both have soft bristles that are not awns. The bristles are in clusters below each spikelet. Green foxtail has fewer bristles to the cluster, and yellow foxtail is a more golden color, at least when mature. I find it easier to use the leaves to distinguish them: yellow foxtail has longer leaves that twist into loose spirals.

Purple love grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*). Look for plants only about 18 inches high, with inflorescence almost to the bottom of the stem. In late summer you see a lovely cloud

Barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*). Figure 3. Look for this a few weeks after the orchard grass. Use a hand lens to see what the book means by “spikelets awned”. I find it in many spots, not the same every year. One year Persimmon Pond was almost completely dry, and scores of the grass plants were blooming there in mid-summer.

Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*). I have noticed this mostly along trails that get a lot of sun, in relatively small patches. The dry stems stay upright into wintertime, and are really distinctive. It blooms from August to October.

Paspalum species. I am not sure, but the one I find occasionally in August may be a variety of *Paspalum setaceum*. The genus looks different from most other grasses, with flat, rounded

of purple. In Muttontown Preserve I have only seen it in the meadow north of the Equestrian Center area. Look closely and you will see little tufts of hair at the base of the leaf blade.

Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*) (formerly *Triodia flava*). It blooms from August to October, likes dry places, and also has a lovely purple color. It may grow to 7 ft. high, but is somewhat shorter in Muttontown meadows and in some sunny spots along paths. It has little tufts of hair at the base of the leaf blade.

Fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*). This is also a tall one, blooming in late summer, found mostly in the meadow. The genus *Panicum* has many species in our area, and the use of “panic grass” as a common name gave me a lot of trouble at first. The genus as a whole is distinguished by small oval flower clusters (florets) borne singly at the end of the branches. Once you have seen a few, this becomes clear.



Fig. 3 *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P. Beauv. - barnyardgrass
USDA NRCS. *Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant
species*. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

White Grass (*Leersia virginica*). Figure 4. Over the years I have noticed this small grass along the paths, almost as common as the path rush. Someone in the LIBS assumed it was Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), an invasive alien. Flowers seemed rare, but last summer I got some and looked at it under my dissecting ‘scope. The seeds were entirely different from the *Microstegium* picture in my field guide. They match most closely with white grass (*Leersia virginica*), which likes damp woods and thickets.

Muttontown does have an herbarium in the Nature Center. Most of the specimens were dried and mounted in the 1970’s, some in the 1990’s. Included are specimens from a number of Nassau County preserves, but very few of the specimens are grasses. From the preserves with salt water you will find dry specimens of beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), *Phragmites australis* and two species of *Spartina*.

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(Grasses, Cont. from page 11)

Once I started looking at grasses in Muttontown Preserve, I noticed the grasses closer to home, in lawns and at curbsides. You might want to look for downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) in May or June; the awns are soft and pettable. I find a love grass, *Eragrostis pectinacea* curbside in August; the spikelets are especially pretty under magnification, lined up parallel to the panicle branches. Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) is much prettier under a 'scope than in the lawn. Look for a coarser plant that resembles crabgrass -- goose grass (*Eleusine indica*). The branches with seeds look like closed zippers! I am still not sure of bluegrass, *Poa* species. I can't see what the books call a canoe-shaped, turned up end of the leaf. Lawns are mowed regularly and don't have leaf tips, and the plants seldom get to set seed.

If you want a good book to get you started on grasses, I recommend "Grasses, an Identification Guide" by Lauren Brown (1979). It is organized by visual similarity, not always by taxonomic groupings. It is intended for our northeastern area. It includes distinctive sedges, a few rushes, horsetails, and "wildflowers" other than grasses. It includes a habitat key and a list of especially early- and late-flowering species, as well as a vocabulary. There are special terms like ligule, auricle, spikelet, floret, glumes, palea and lemma. I found that reading a definition was not good enough to make the information stick. I backed into terminology by taking a specimen of a named grass and looking for the parts named in the book description. This is more difficult and time-consuming than having someone talk you through it, but for me the material sticks better when I read it.

Pohl's "How to Know the Grasses" (1968) was more useful after I absorbed the basic terminology, but the illustrations show just the spikelet or inflorescence -- not the full plant as the Brown book does. From the Library at Muttontown I borrowed

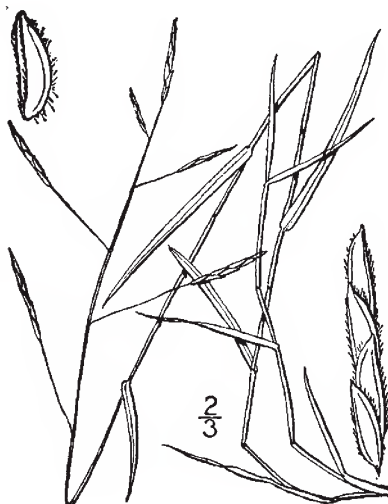


Fig. 4 *Leersia virginica* Willd. - whitegrass
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L.,
and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the
northern United States, Canada and the British
Possessions*. Vol. 1: 168.

Holmgren's "Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual" (1998). It has wonderful drawings that helped a lot with identification. The book is very expensive, but some of you may have access to it. I suspect that at least some of the illustrations in the USDA PLANTS Database (2010) come from that book. I learned about the database only while preparing this article.

William Cullina's book (2008) deals with native grasses that he believes have ornamental potential. I enjoyed his photographs of these grasses.

I'm still looking for company in my search for grasses. I see from Eric Lamont's list that there are at least 38 species in Hempstead Plains Preserve, and I know I have a long way to go. I hope some of you will join me in eventually saying: "Aaah! Grasses!"

Literature Cited

- Brown, Lauren. 1979. Grasses: an Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York.
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- Pohl, Richard W. 1968. How to Know the Grasses. Wm. C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa
- USDA, NRCS 2010. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>) National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

AROUND THE INTERNET

County-Level Maps of North American Flora

The Biota of North America Program, based in Chapel Hill, N.C. recently launched a complete set of county-level maps of the North American vascular flora on the BONAP website (www.bonap.org).

Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Plants Guidebook

The propagation and sale of 56 invasive plant species became illegal January 1st, 2009 for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. A list of recommended alternatives

to commercially-important, invasive plants has been developed and is available online at <http://nyis.info/LIISMA/NativeAlternatives.aspx>

Lost Ladybug Project

During the past twenty years several native ladybugs that were once very common have become extremely rare while exotic ladybug species have greatly increased both their numbers and range. A citizen science project to document the distribution of ladybugs is available at <http://www.lostladybug.org/>

Botanical Memoirs: The North Fork in the '50's

Larry Penny

East Hampton Town Natural Resources Director

By way of my college training and experience, I was first a wildlife biologist from Cornell, secondly, an ornithologist from San Francisco State and thirdly an ichthyologist from UC Santa Barbara. My knowledge of plants came about slowly, starting when I was a child of four or so growing up on a farmette on the North Fork at the edge of Mattituck's Westphalia Road next to my grandfather's chicken farm. Thus I learned about cultivars before I learned about native plants. In those days at the end of the Great Depression and World War II that followed, just about everyone in Mattituck had a garden and most of our food came from it and the ducks, chickens, pigs, etc., that we also raised. Thus we knew raspberries before huckleberries, sweet cherries before black cherries, cultivated strawberries before wild ones.

No one had a lot of money, and to supplement the homegrown stuff we picked a lot of wild berries. Thus before I was eight I had picked several quarts of low bush blueberries, from the ones without the serrated leaves, tons of black cherries, many a huckleberry, a lot of beach plums and bunches of cranberries during automobile trips to visit the South Fork bogs. We didn't buy Christmas firs or spruces in those days, we cut down eastern red cedars. Almost everyone had a lawn and a Norway maple or two and lilac bushes standing in it. We kids didn't have video games; we played marbles and climbed trees for fun. Maples were the favorite tree to climb; we all knew what a maple leaf looked like.

Roy Latham, of course, was in his prime at the time, studying everything from orchids to unusual fish like tarpon and Atlantic salmon caught in local fish traps. Unfortunately, we never met up and if it wasn't for Paul Stoutenburgh in Cutchogue three miles away, I might have missed out on the native flora all together. While I was going from place to place to help him photograph this and that bird, he would always manage to take a few minutes to show me and tell me about this or that plant. I knew nothing of pitcher plants and Atlantic white cedars until Paul took me to the bogs south and west of Riverhead.

As a lad I learned more exotic plants than native ones. Because Mattituck was largely agricultural, we had our share of "weeds" early on. Every lawn had dandelions, the road and field edges had lamb's-quarters and common ragweed which we called "pigweed". We fed the former to the chickens, discarded the latter. It seems that we were always pulling or hoeing them up, along with green amaranth (which Long Island Indian expert John Strong taught me was an important food for the aboriginal population). We gathered ripe milkweed pods during the war which were to be used in life jackets, so we were told. The predominant wild flowers were the goldenrods

and asters of several species which began blooming along the rural roadsides in August and September and the seaside goldenrod which grew on the backshore and dunes of the Long Island Sound beaches.

I knew about multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle and Asiatic bittersweet, while poison ivy, Virginia creeper and wild (= fox) grape were the only indigenous vines I was familiar with as a boy. The honeysuckle outnumbered them all, thus I didn't take a liking to it. What we didn't have then were mugwort, garlic mustard and Tartarian honeysuckle which have become so prominent throughout eastern Long Island in this century. I vaguely remember encountering a small patch of Japanese knotweed growing in a seepy area near the base of a Long Island sound bluff a mile or so to the west of Mattituck inlet ca. 1949 and 1950.

Old fields were common and almost every one was used at one time or another to play pick-up baseball until they became so overgrown with junipers and bayberry that we could no longer run freely over them. Their grassy portions were mostly occupied by little bluestem which I clearly remember because of its persistent purple-amber coloration against the white of the snow which partially covered it in the winter.

We did have a lot of naturalized black locusts, but not many trees-of-heaven. As one had thorns and the other had weak branches, neither was a good tree for climbing so we stayed away from them. Our common trees were white, black and scarlet oaks, which were scattered throughout. We never made bread from acorns, but we did gather them, especially the larger white oak acorns to feed to the pigs. The only native conifers I grew up with were the aforementioned eastern red cedar and the pitch pine, a small "pine barrens" remnant or pioneer stand of which stretched along both sides of Westphalia Road, on the north all the way to Mattituck Creek, on the south all the way to Sound Avenue. It was under these pines in the Plymouth-Carver outwash soils that we war-preoccupied boys would dig our "fox holes" among the blueberries and huckleberries. It was in the bottom of one of these fox holes that at nine years of age, I found my first red-backed salamander.

I didn't learn about the native white pines in Moores Woods in Greenport until Paul Stoutenburgh took me there as a teenager.

We had some big-around American beech trees behind the chicken farm which were pock-marked with lots of initials, some dating back to the early 1900s which was that long ago for me at that age. With them were the ubiquitous oaks and,

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(Memoirs, Cont. from page 13)

also, hickories, mostly pignuts and mockernuts. There were only a handful of black walnuts, from which we gleaned the nuts along with the occasional beech nuts between November and Christmas tide. There were lots of northern bayberries around, but scarcely any mountain laurel which was abundant in the more western parts of the Harbor Hills moraine at the time. I don't remember tupelos or red maples, but they must have been present. In those days, we became familiar with species by way of climbing them, cutting them down for fire wood, gathering food from them, removing them from our gardens, and so forth. Everything was considered "native" because we had grown up with everything.

When my family moved to the "Oregon" part of Mattituck, largely covered with potato fields separated by hedgerows, I came to know a very nice beech-hickory wood on the north side of Middle Road (later NYS 46) just east of where the Cutchogue dump was situated. This little patch could almost be called "mature growth forest" and it had at least three stories including flowering dogwoods, and forest floor flowering herbs. Apparently, the huckleberries and lowbush blueberries were not compatible with the beech trees.

When I trapped muskrats, gathered ribbed mussels or hunted waterfowl as a boy, I became very familiar with the salt marsh plants around Mattituck Creek. I would pull up the new shoots of saltwater cordgrass and suck on their ends to taste the salt. Fiddler crabs dug holes in the salt marsh hay, and while I was searching for my traps set at tunnels in the marsh peat, I would always have to fight my way through the clutches of the groundsel and marsh elder bushes. I remember thin stands of phragmites in a few places then and a very thick stand (a good place to hunt flying ducks from) dominating what was called Hughes's Pond on the north side of Peconic Bay Avenue on the way to Laurel from Mattituck. There was also quite a bit of phragmites in the back ends of the salt marshes along New Suffolk Avenue between Mattituck and New Suffolk where I also trapped as a boy. Presumably this was the same European strain of phragmites that is overgrowing so many of our wetlands today.

The edges of Maratooka Lake were fringed with pickerel weed and water willow. I remember finding a patch of prickly pear cactus on the sandy hillside southeast of Mattituck High School on the south side of NYS 25. There were a lot of leafy pond weeds and perhaps some water celery covering the bottom of the pond. I only remember seeing a little eelgrass in Mattituck Creek as a boy and lots of sea lettuce. The eelgrass grew in the "race" between a cluster of cordgrass hummocks and Brower's Woods where a few ruffed grouse could still be spooked up and a lone osprey nest was occupied for decades. The first eelgrass I remember seeing in the Peconic Estuary was between New Suffolk and Robins Island, when the bay scallops returned in force in 1946 and we went to catch them.

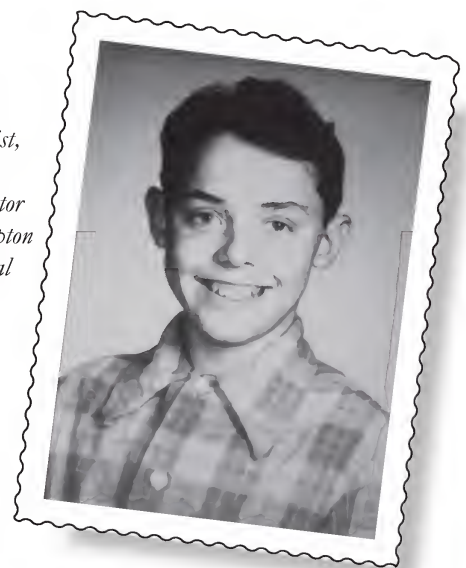
When I was about seven my sister Margie took me along a path cut into the side of a hill on the south side of Mattituck creek near our home where *Epigaea repens* flourished each spring. That is how I came to know May pink as it was known in Mattituck at that time. Also a few flowering dogwoods would be in flower along that path and were prominently displayed as the other hardwoods towering over them and around them were still leafless.

The dunes at the "breakwater" in Mattituck where we had our annual Red Cross swimming lessons were small and perched in front of the morainal bluffs and behind a wide flat beach, the backshore of which was covered with beach grass and reindeer moss (*Cladonia*) as it was called and, perhaps, beach heather. I don't remember any bearberry, but I might have overlooked it. When I mapped the same area in the late 1970s for a Suffolk County Planning Department study I found marram grass (*Panicum amarum*, smaller sea-beach grass) growing in several duny spots. As a boy I would have noticed it, had it been there, because of its distinctive blue-green leaves and its leaning growth form, but never did.

The bluffs had, perhaps, the most interesting of all Mattituck's floras. There were krummholzed trees of all description, particularly, the beeches. The bayberry was very thick and there were thick stands of *Rubus*, which, may have been *R. allegheniensis*.

Lichens, heather and other low stuff grew in the sand along the sides of the well-worn east-west trail which had experienced at least a century of wear. The morainal bluffs on the east side of the inlet were equally interesting. There were shad and other low-growth trees there and I remember finding a strange tree with compound leaves, which I later was able to identify as a box elder, *Acer negundo*.

*A life-scientist,
educator, and
nature columnist,
Larry Penny
has been Director
of East Hampton
Town's Natural
Resource
Department
since 1983.*



FIELD TRIPS

April 24, 2010 (SATURDAY) 10:00 AM

Shu Swamp Preserve, Glen Head, Suffolk Co., NY

Trip leader: Carol Johnston

This preserve is an excellent place to see spring ephemerals on Long Island. We hope to see Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*), Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginiana*), LI's only population of Dog Violet (*Viola conspersa*), and Long Island Dwarf Ginseng (*Panax trifolius*). There are also some very old trees exceeding 3 feet in diameter including Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Shu Swamp is rather wet, so wear footwear appropriate for muddy conditions.

Directions: From the LIE, take exit 41N to Rt 107 North. Continue on 107 for 3.1 miles, then turn right onto Wheatley Rd. Cross Rt 25A after 1 mile where Wheatley Rd. turns into Wolver Hollow Rd. Continue on Wolver Hollow Rd. for 1.5 miles and turn right onto Chicken Valley Rd. Follow Chicken Valley Rd. for 1.3 miles, continuing straight for another half mile on Glen Cove Oyster Bay Rd. Turn right onto Frost Mill Rd. and look for small parking area around 1 mile on the left.

May 8, 2010 (SATURDAY) 10:00 AM

Wading River wetlands, Wading River, Suffolk Co., NY

Trip leader: Margaret Conover

These two Nature Conservancy preserves, The Edward J. and Dorothy C. Kempf Preserve and the Henry Reppa Pond Preserve, include both freshwater wetlands and salt

marsh habitats as well as upland oak forests featuring lopped trees. Wear footwear appropriate for muddy conditions and be prepared for mosquitoes.

Directions: Since parking is extremely limited at the preserve, we will meet in the parking lot of Wading River Congregational Church, and carpool or walk less than a mile to the site. From the LIE, take exit 68 North, follow the William Floyd Parkway north for 8.1 miles to its end at Rte. 25A. Bear right (east) onto 25A. Proceed for about 1.8 miles and turn left onto Wading River-Manorville Road. Proceed .5 mi and bear left onto North Country Road. The church is immediately on your left, across the road from the family home of Elihu Miller, one of Long Island's early botanists.

June 5, 2010 (Saturday) 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Wetlands of Alley Pond Park, Queens Co., NY

Trip leaders: Andy Greller and Aline Euler

Beginning at 11:00 AM, for World Environment Day we will conduct a mini bio blitz to explore early summer flora. Bring beverage, lunch, insect repellent and sturdy footwear. Beginning at 2pm, we will explore early summer flora and will probably encounter muddy areas around Oakland Lake and Ravine, so be prepared for wet walking. This is a joint trip with the Torrey Botanical Club.

Directions: Meet at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston. By car: take Cross Island Parkway. Exit at Northern Blvd. eastbound and go 600 yards to the parking area of APEC.

(Society News, Cont. from page 10)

Conservation Committee Report: Bill Titus recently represented LIBS as a stakeholder at a Nassau County Steering Committee meeting on the Muttontown Master Plan. LIBS sincerely appreciates being able to use the Bill Paterson Nature Center at Muttontown Preserve for many of its monthly meetings. Also, Bill Titus continues to faithfully represent LIBS at monthly meetings of LIISMA (Long Island Invasive Species Management Areas).

LIBS Field Trip to Florida: In celebration of its 25th anniversary, LIBS is planning a 10-day field trip to Florida in mid-April 2011. Barbara Conolly is helping to coordinate the trip. Ann Johnson will be leading three days of trips in the Panhandle and northern Florida to start us off. Then we'll drive (probably in 2 or 3, 9-passenger vans) to the Archbold Biological Station on the south end of the Lake Wales Ridge and Myakka (near Sarasota) before locating in the Ft. Myers vicinity. From there we're considering trips to Corkscrew Swamp, C.R.E.W. marsh and oak hammock,

Ding Darling Refuge, Caloosahatchie Creeks Preserve, the Okaloacootchie watershed, various Sanibel Island preserves and a trip to Fakahatchee to see wild orchids. Individuals will pay for their own air fare and meals, and the trip cost will cover transportation, lodging, entrance fees, and other miscellaneous costs.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

As both a member of the LIBS and the ABLS, I was very interested in the major article "Checklist of the Bryophytes of Long Island," Eric Morgan, Jon Borysiewicz and Jon Sperling, Vol 20, No. 1, LIBS.

However, Long Island is not the northernmost range of the liverwort *Talaranea nematodes*. It was also reported in 2002, from Martha's Vineyard by Mary Lincoln and Scott LaGreen. [Evansia: Vol 19:No.2.]

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lance Biechele

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 13, 2010* Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Meg McGrath: “Determining the Impact on Plants of Ground-level Ozone on Long Island.” Dr. McGrath will talk about her work investigating the impact of ambient ozone on agricultural plants growing on Long Island. Each summer this ozone reaches concentrations which are high enough to require the issuance of health advisories for people. Meg is an Associate Professor with a research/extension appointment in the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University. She is stationed at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center where she has been working since 1988 on optimizing management of diseases affecting vegetable crops within organic as well as conventional production systems, and also on determining impact of ambient ozone on plant productivity.

Location: Museum of Long Island Natural Sciences, Earth and Space Science Building, Gil Hanson Room (Room 123), SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook

May 11, 2010* Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Mike Feder: “Plants of Three Rare Ecosystems.” This talk will highlight plants from Cape Town, South Africa’s Fynbos, Colombia’s Paramo, and Trinidad’s Aripo Savannah. Mike travels extensively, and is a member of the Torrey Botanical Society and the New York City Butterfly Club. He is a Forest Restoration Crew Chief in the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Group.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center, Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

June 8, 2010* Tuesday, 5:30 PM
(please note early start time for the barbecue)

Annual Barbecue:

The annual barbecue, featuring hot dogs and hamburgers made to order by Interim Chef Andy Greller, in Eric’s absence. Salads, deviled eggs, desserts, etc. gladly accepted. The traditional location - on the green behind the Muttontown Preserve meeting house.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center, Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

* Refreshments and informal talk begin at 7:30 p.m. Formal meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
Directions to Muttontown or Stony Brook: 516-354-6506